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age 1 of * 12	2	WASHIN	EXCHANGE COMMI GTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4	SSION File No. (req. fr	o.* SR - 2010 - * 16 or Amendments *)
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Initial * ✓	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	Section 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
	ension of Time Period Commission Action *	Date Expires *		Image: 19b-4(f)(1)   Image: 19b-4(f)(2)     Image: 19b-4(f)(2)   Image: 19b-4(f)(2)     Image: 19b-4(f)(3)   Image: 19b-4(f)(2)	5)
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	IES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION VASHINGTON, D.C. 20549				
For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.					
Form 19b-4 Information (required)       Add     Remove     View	The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.				
Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change (required) Add Remove View	The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)				
Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments,       Transcripts, Other Communications       Add     Remove       View       Exhibit Sent As Paper Document	Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.				
Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire       Add     Remove       View       Exhibit Sent As Paper Document	Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.				
Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies     Add   Remove     View	The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.				
Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text     Add   Remove     View	The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change.				
Partial Amendment   Add Remove   View	If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.				

# 1. <u>Text of Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB" or "Board") is hereby filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC") a proposed rule change consisting of: (i) amendments to Rule G-5, on disciplinary actions by appropriate regulatory agencies, and Rule G-17, the Board's basic fair practice rule, to apply the rules to municipal advisors. The proposed rule change is set forth below, with underlining indicating additions and brackets indicating deletions.

# **Rule G-5: Disciplinary Actions by Appropriate Regulatory Agencies; Remedial Notices by Registered Securities Associations**

(a) No change

(b) No broker, dealer or municipal securities dealer that is a member of a registered securities association shall effect any transaction in, or induce or attempt to induce the purchase or sale of, any municipal security, or otherwise act in contravention of or fail to act in accordance with rules adopted by the association [as of April 3, 1984], pertaining to remedial activities of members experiencing financial or operational difficulties, as if such rules were applicable to such broker, dealer or municipal securities dealer.

(c) No municipal advisor shall engage in municipal advisory activities in contravention of any effective restrictions imposed upon such municipal advisor by the Commission pursuant to section 15B(c)(2) or (3) of the Act, and no natural person shall be associated with a municipal advisor in contravention of any effective restrictions imposed upon such person by the Commission pursuant to section 15B(c)(4) of the Act.

## Rule G-17: Conduct of Municipal Securities and Municipal Advisory Activities

In the conduct of its municipal securities <u>or municipal advisory activities</u>, each broker, dealer, [and] municipal securities dealer<u>, and municipal advisor</u> shall deal fairly with all persons and shall not engage in any deceptive, dishonest, or unfair practice.

\* \* \* \*

- (b) Not applicable
- (c) Not applicable
- 2. <u>Procedures of Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change was adopted by the Board at its October 20-22, 2010 meeting,

with the exception of the amendment to Rule G-5(b) to remove a reference to an outdated NASD rule, which was adopted at the Board's July 21-23 meeting. Questions concerning this filing may be directed to Peg Henry, Deputy General Counsel, at (703) 797-6600.

## 3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Rule G-5 currently provides that brokers, dealers, and municipal securities dealers ("dealers") may not engage in municipal securities activities in contravention of restrictions imposed on them by the Commission, a registered securities association, or another appropriate regulatory agency. The purposes of the portion of the proposed rule change consisting of an amendment to Rule G-5 are to remove a reference to an outdated NASD rule and to provide that municipal advisors and their associated persons may not engage in the municipal advisory activities described in Section 15B(e)(4)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") in contravention of restrictions imposed upon them by the Commission.

Rule G-17 currently provides that, in the conduct of its municipal securities activities, each dealer shall deal fairly with all persons and shall not engage in any deceptive, dishonest, or unfair practice. The purpose of the portion of the proposed rule change consisting of amendments to Rule G-17 is to apply the MSRB's core fair dealing rule to municipal advisors in the same manner that it currently applies to dealers.

(b) The MSRB believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15B(b)(2) of the Act, which provides that:

The Board shall propose and adopt rules to effect the purposes of this title with respect to transactions in municipal securities effected by brokers, dealers, and municipal securities dealers and advice provided to or on behalf of municipal entities or obligated persons by brokers, dealers, municipal securities dealers, and municipal advisors with respect to municipal financial products, the issuance of municipal securities, and solicitations of municipal entities or obligated persons undertaken by brokers, dealers, municipal securities dealers, and municipal advisors.

Section 15B(b)(2)(C) of the Act provides that the rules of the MSRB shall:

be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in municipal securities and municipal financial products, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market in municipal securities and municipal financial products, and, in general, to protect investors, municipal entities, obligated persons, and the public

interest.

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15B(b)(2) of the Act, because it provides that: (i) municipal advisors shall deal fairly with all persons and not engage in any deceptive, dishonest, or unfair practice and (ii) municipal advisors and their associated persons shall not conduct the activities described in Section 15B(e)(4)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Act in contravention of restrictions imposed upon them by the Commission.

Section 15B(2)(L) of the Act requires that rules adopted by the Board

not impose a regulatory burden on small municipal advisors that is not necessary or appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors, municipal entities, and obligated persons, provided that there is robust protection of investors against fraud.

The proposed rule change is necessary for the robust protection of investors against fraud. Many municipal advisors play a key role in the structuring of offerings of municipal securities and the preparation of offering documents used to market those securities to investors. In some cases, they advise on the appropriateness of derivatives entered into by municipal issuers, the effectiveness of which may have a substantial impact on the finances of those issuers. In other cases, they solicit public pension fund investment advisory business that, if not conducted according to the highest standards, may have a substantial effect on the finances of the state and local governments that control those funds. Investors, therefore, have a substantial interest in municipal advisors conducting their municipal advisory activities fairly, not engaging in fraudulent conduct, and not engaging in municipal advisory activities contrary to disciplinary actions imposed by the SEC.

## 4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

The Board does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, since it would apply equally to all municipal advisors. In particular, the MSRB believes that the amendment to Rule G-5 imposes no regulatory burden on any municipal advisor because Section 15B(c) of the Act already permits the SEC to limit the activities of municipal advisors in the manner provided for in amended Rule G-5. Further, the MSRB believes that the amendment to Rule G-17 imposes no regulatory burden on any municipal advisor not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act since most municipal advisors already comport themselves in accordance with the standards of behavior required by Rule G-17 and no municipal advisor has a legitimate interest in engaging in behavior that is fraudulent or otherwise unfair.

## 5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments Received on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change by Members, Participants, or Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

6. <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u>

Not applicable.

7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated</u> <u>Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

Not applicable.

8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization</u> <u>Or of the Commission</u>

Not applicable.

- 9. <u>Exhibits</u>
  - 1. <u>Federal Register</u> Notice.

# EXHIBIT 1

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (RELEASE NO. 34- ; File No. SR-MSRB-2010-16)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board; Notice of Filing of Amendments to Rule G-5, on Disciplinary Actions by Appropriate Regulatory Agencies, Remedial Notices by Registered Securities Associations; and Rule G-17, on Conduct of Municipal Securities Activities

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("the Act")<sup>1</sup> and

Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on November 1, 2010, the Municipal

Securities Rulemaking Board ("Board" or "MSRB") filed with the Securities and Exchange

Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and

III below, which Items have been prepared by the MSRB. The Commission is publishing this

notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change</u>

The MSRB is filing a proposed rule change consisting of amendments to Rule G-5, on

disciplinary actions by appropriate regulatory agencies, and Rule G-17, the Board's basic fair

practice rule, to apply the rules to municipal advisors. The text of the proposed rule change is

available on the MSRB's Website at www.msrb.org/Rules-and-Interpretations/SEC-

Filings/2010-Filings.aspx, at the MSRB's principal office, and at the Commission's Public

Reference Room.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 18 C.F.R. 240.19b-4.

In its filing with the Commission, the MSRB included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Board has prepared summaries, set forth in Section A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

## A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

Rule G-5 currently provides that brokers, dealers, and municipal securities dealers ("dealers") may not engage in municipal securities activities in contravention of restrictions imposed on them by the Commission, a registered securities association, or another appropriate regulatory agency. The purposes of the portion of the proposed rule change consisting of amendments to Rule G-5 are to remove a reference to an outdated NASD rule and to provide that municipal advisors and their associated persons may not engage in the municipal advisory activities described in Section 15B(e)(4)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Act in contravention of restrictions imposed upon them by the Commission.

Rule G-17 currently provides that, in the conduct of its municipal securities activities, each dealer shall deal fairly with all persons and shall not engage in any deceptive, dishonest, or unfair practice. The purpose of the portion of the proposed rule change consisting of amendments to Rule G-17 is to apply the MSRB's core fair dealing rule to municipal advisors in the same manner that it currently applies to dealers.

### 2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The MSRB believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15B(b)(2) of the Act, which provides that:

The Board shall propose and adopt rules to effect the purposes of this title with respect to transactions in municipal securities effected by brokers, dealers, and municipal securities dealers and advice provided to or on behalf of municipal entities or obligated persons by brokers, dealers, municipal securities dealers, and municipal advisors with respect to municipal financial products, the issuance of municipal securities, and solicitations of municipal entities or obligated persons undertaken by brokers, dealers, municipal securities dealers, and municipal advisors.

Section 15B(b)(2)(C) of the Act provides that the rules of the MSRB shall:

be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in municipal securities and municipal financial products, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market in municipal securities and municipal financial products, and, in general, to protect investors, municipal entities, obligated persons, and the public interest.

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15B(b)(2) of the Act, because it provides that: (i) municipal advisors shall deal fairly with all persons and not engage in any deceptive, dishonest, or unfair practice and (ii) municipal advisors and their associated persons shall not conduct the activities described in Section 15B(e)(4)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Act in contravention of restrictions imposed upon them by the Commission.

Section 15B(2)(L) of the Act requires that rules adopted by the Board

not impose a regulatory burden on small municipal advisors that is not necessary or appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors, municipal entities, and obligated persons, provided that there is robust protection of investors against fraud.

The proposed rule change is necessary for the robust protection of investors against fraud. Many municipal advisors play a key role in the structuring of offerings of municipal securities and the preparation of offering documents used to market those

securities to investors. In some cases, they advise on the appropriateness of derivatives entered into by municipal issuers, the effectiveness of which may have a substantial impact on the finances of those issuers. In other cases, they solicit public pension fund investment advisory business that, if not conducted according to the highest standards, may have a substantial effect on the finances of the state and local governments that control those funds. Investors, therefore, have a substantial interest in municipal advisors conducting their municipal advisory activities fairly, not engaging in fraudulent conduct, and not engaging in municipal advisory activities contrary to disciplinary actions imposed by the SEC.

#### B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

The MSRB does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, since it would apply equally to all municipal advisors. In particular, the MSRB believes that the amendments to Rule G-5 impose no regulatory burden on any municipal advisor because Section 15B(c) of the Act already permits the SEC to limit the activities of municipal advisors in the manner provided for in amended Rule G-5. Further, the MSRB believes that the amendment to Rule G-17 imposes no regulatory burden on any municipal advisor not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act since most municipal advisors already comport themselves in accordance with the standards of behavior required by Rule G-17 and no municipal advisor has a legitimate interest in engaging in behavior that is fraudulent or otherwise unfair.

### C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments Received on the</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change by Members, Participants, or Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

#### III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) by order approve or disapprove such proposed rule change, or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

#### Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-MSRB-2010-16 on the subject line.

#### Paper comments:

• Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-MSRB-2010-16. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the

proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the MSRB's offices. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-MSRB-2010-16 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>3</sup>

Elizabeth M. Murphy Secretary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 17 C.F.R 200.30-3(a)(12).